

**INCOMING TELEGRAM****Department of State**38-L  
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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1117, March 1, 10 a.m.

PRIORITY

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RMR

February 28 Foreign Minister advised us of dispatch February 27 of second note to Iraqi Government re Shatt-Al-Arab. Note which delivered Iraqi Ambassador Tehran, "politely" set forth Iranian view that if any damage occurred to shipping in Shatt as result Iraqi refusal provide pilotage, responsibility would rest solely upon government of Iraq. Note added that berthing at Abadan was matter which concerned Iran only and suggested discussions between Iran and Iraq at the technical level regarding coordination between Iranian berthing masters and Iraqi pilots. Foreign Minister said note expressed confidence that details this coordination could be easily worked out.

Foreign Minister stressed Iranian viewpoint that principle of Iranian control of berthing at Abadan was matter over which Iraq had no jurisdictional rights. Said that Iran did not intend that it be discussed during anticipated conversations with Iraq on general problem of Shatt but realized of course that Iraq intended to bring it up at that time.

Foreign Minister regarded Iraq decision to talk with Iran in near future about Shatt as having been stimulated by Iranian decision re berthing at Abadan. If Iran had not taken this step Iraq would have continued to procrastinate indefinitely, he said.

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